the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) has been taken and sanction for prosecution has been issued. The defaulting exporter has also been detained under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and prevention of Smuggling Activities (COFEPOSA) Act.

In the Export-Import Policy for 1995-96, the Value Based Advance Licences have been made subject to additional Customs duty with corresponding Modvat Drawback benefits.

This is expected to discourage misuse of VABAL Scheme. Further the Enforcement Directorate in the Ministry of Finance keeps a close vigil to prevent Hawala transactions and takes severe action against offenders, under the provisions of FERA and COFEPOSA.

Export of books newspapers and magazines

7618. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the value of books, Newspapers and Maga zines etc., exported during the year 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The value of books, newspapers and magazines etc exported during the year 1994-95 is estimated at Rs. 89 crors.

(Source: Chamicals & Allied Products Export Promotion Council)

News) letters on dumping by FICCI

7619. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COM MERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "FICCI urged to issue quartely on dumping as reported in the Pioneer dated 20th April, 1995;

(b) if so, whether Government have asked FICCI to bring out a quarterly newsletter on developments relating to dumping of goods;

(c) if so, whether Government have failed to keep a check on dumping of goods; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In a seminar on Anti-Dumping organised by FICCI, it was suggested that a quartely newsletter could be brought out by FICCI highlighting the details of anti-dumping cases worldwide in order to spread awareness amongst the industry.

(c) and (d) In the Ministry of Commerce appropriate machinery exists with the Designated Authority to receive and examine complaints relating to dumping of goods in India. Petitions received by the Authority from the domestic industry, are examined and wherever warranted anti-dumping duty has alo been recommended and levied.

Boosting trade ties with Russia

7620. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has expressed its desire to boost trade ties with India;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the areas identified for the expansion of Indo-Russian trade; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India and the Government of Russia have the desire to boost trade ties. Various measures for promoting bilateral trade and economic cooperation have been undertaken by the Government which include:—

— Promotion of dialogue with the Russian side including at the highest level.

— activation of the Joint Commission mechanism with its working group on Trade and Economic Coopera tion and Sub group on Transport which have met separately to dis cuss the entire gamut of bilateral economic relations.

facilitating through bilateral consultations, the rapid utilisation of debt owed to Russia, in the form of exports of goods; a separate agreement on long-term purchase of specific goods has been signed.

promotion of direct business contacts through exchange of delegations, holding of exhibitions, participation in fairs, buyer-seller meets eac.

encouragement of initiatives to ensure that infra-structure is quickly created for trade in areas such as banking, warehousing and transportation (through the Russian Black Sea Port of Novorossisk).

(c) and (d) During the meeting of the Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation under the aegis of Indo-Russian Joint Commission held in Moscow in July, 1994, it was decided to have a long term perspective plan for purchase of certain items such as tea, tabacco, soyabean meals and pharmaceuticals. As a follow-up, an agreement has been signed between the two sides in December, 1994 during Russian Prime Minister's visit for annual purchase in India by Russia of the following commodities under the Debt Repayment Route during the period 1995—97 :—

1. Tobacco	20,000 MTs.
2. Tea	30,000 MTs.
3. Soyabean meal	1,00,000 MTs.
4. Pharmaceuticals Valued at US $	100 MT.

Complaints regarding quality of Exported Marine Products

7621. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that the complaints regarding quality of marine producs exported have increased;

(b) if so the steps taken to maintain the quality and reduce the rejection of exported marine products; and

(c) whether the quality control will be introduced to protect market of Indian marine products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) With increase in marine products exports and diversification of markets and products, there has been a marginal increase in quality complaints.

(b) Some initiatives taken for better quality maintenance inter-alia include :—

(i) Advising exporters and their associations on the requirements of quality and hygenic stipulations laid down by the main importing countries.

(ii) Introduction of a subsidy scheme to assist processors in establishing captive peeling sheds.

(iii) Financial Assistance to preprocessors in obtaining stainless Steel tables used for peeling activities.

(iv) Carrying out a suvey along with Export Inspection Council of all processing units and informig them of the requisite steps for maintaining quality control.

(v) Informing health and inspection authorities in Foreign countries of measures being taken the India to ensure quality including inviting officials from major markets to visit processing units in India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

India's Share in the International Cofee Market

7622. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minster of COMMERCE be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that India accounts for less than three per cent of world trade in coffee-

(b) whether the production of coffee in India has declined front 2,12,000 tonnes in 1993-94 to 1,80,100 tonnes in 1994-95 and if so, how the export target of